

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 00664 01 OF 02 141640 Z

47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 EB-11 AID-20 AGR-20 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /175 W

----- 072664

R 131215 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6299

USUN NEW YORK 288

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OUAGADOUGOU 664

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : UNDP, UV

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF ACTING UNDP RESREP

1. SUMMARY : ON APRIL 9 UNDP NEW YORK TELEPHONED MICHEL BAUMER, ACTING RESREP OUAGADOUGOU, TO INFORM HIM UPPER VOLTA HAD REQUESTED HE LEAVE COUNTRY WITHIN WEEK. UNDP NEW YORK ASSURED BAUMER ITS FULLEST SYMPATHY AND PROMISED APPROPRIATELY ATTRACTIVE NEXT ASSIGNMENT. FOLLOWING CONVERSATIONS WITH FONMIN CONOMBO APRIL 11, BAUMER HAS DECIDED DELAY DEPARTURE UNTIL EARLY IN WEEK APRIL 23.

2. ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED ARE CONFUSED AND CONTROVERSIAL, OUR TENTATIVE CONCLUSION IS THAT VOLTAN ACTION IS REPREHENSIBLE AND WILL PREJUDICE VOTAN EFFORTS OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY CONSIDERATION FOR ITS CRITICAL DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS, PARTICULARLY AT PRESENT TIME OF SEVERE DROUGHT EMERGENCY. BAUMER IS RECOGNIZED EXPERT ON PROBLEMS OF DROUGHT IN SHAEL REGION AND HAS BEEN DEEPLY COMMITTED AND ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN MOBILIZING ALL POSSIBLE UNDP

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OUAGAD 00664 01 OF 02 141640 Z

RESOURCES ON BEHALF VOLTAN NEED.

3. SEVERAL REASONS FOR BAUMER' S DEMISE CURRENTLY CIRCULATE AMONG INFORMED SOURCES OUAGADOUGOU. THE REASON VARIES ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE AND THE AUDIENCE. BAUMER HIMSELF HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING CONOMBO TO ADMIT TO HIM THAT IT WAS HIS EXPULSION LAST YEAR FROM ZAIRE THAT LEFT UPPER VOLTA WITH NO ALTERNATIVE TO SENDING HIM AWAY. ZAIROIS OFFICIALS VISITING OUAGADOUGOU IN LATE JANUARY NOTED BAUMER' S PRESENCE HERE AND PROMPTLY PROTESTED TO PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. CONOMBO LAMELY PLEADED FOR BAUMER' S UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING " AFRICAN SOLIDARITY" ON THIS ISSUE BUT THEN MADE THE INCREDIBLE SUGGESTION THAT HE HOPED FOR OPPORTUNITY SEE BAUMER AGAIN SOON ON THE AFRICAN CIRCUIT. BAUMER TELLS US THAT OF COURSE THE VOLTAN ACTION FORECLOSES ANY FUTURE AFRICAN ASSIGNMENTS FOR HIM.

4. BAUMER HAS EXPLAINED ZAIRE PROBLEM TO US AS FRAMEUP RESPONDING TO INTERNAL ZAIROIS POLITICAL MACHINATIONS. WE HAVE NO REASON DOUBT HIS EXPLANATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNDP HEADQUARTERS ACCEPTED HIS VERSION COMPLETELY AND EVEN PROMOTED HIM SHORTLY THEREAFTER. AT TIME OF EXPULSION HE WAS CHIEF OF FAO MISSION TO ZAIRE. ZAIRE GOVERNMENT SAID EXPULSION WAS FOR EXPIONAGE, INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL ZAIROIS AFFAIRS, AND SUBSERVIENCE TO FRENCH INTERESTS. WHEN BAUMER EXPLAINED HIS SIDE OF THE STORY TO CONOMBO, CONOMBO CHARACTERISTICALLY PUT ON GREAT SHOW OF MORTIFICATION, REGRET THAT HE HADN' T KNOWN THIS BEFORE, ASSURANCE THAT GOUV HAD BEEN DELIGHTED WITH BAUMER' S PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE, ETC., ETC. HE MADE CLEAR HOWEVER THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO CHANGE THE DECISION.

5. WHEREAS ABOVE JUSTIFICATION THEIR ACTION MAY BE THE ONLY STORY THE GOUV DARES PUT FORWARD PUBLICLY, FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL FACTORS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO GOUV DECISION. GOUV WAS HURT AND ANGERED BY DOO KINGU E' S BEHAVIOUR LATE LAST YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH REPORT OF UNDP SPECIAL MISSION FOR UPPER VOTA. (SEE OUAGADOUGOU A-86 DEC. 9. 1972). IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GOUV HAS BEEN SEEKING AN EXCUSE EVER SINCE THEN TO GET EVEN WITH UN. WE EXPECT AGMINISTER DAKOURE TO BE AT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OUAGAD 00664 01 OF 02 141640 Z

LEAST PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE THIS LINE OF THINKING IN VOLTAN CABINET. IT WAS HE WHO CHAIRED THE MEETING IN WHICH DOO KINGUE CRITICISED THE VOLTAN FIVE- YEAR PLAN AS HODGE PODGE. (PERHAPS INDICATIVE OF DAKOURE' S GENERAL APPROACH TO THE UNDP IS HIS REPORTED DECISION TO INSIST AT NEXT MEETING OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL, OF WHICH HE IS PRESIDENT, THAT ALL RESREPS IN AFRICA BE AFRICANS AND THAT MONEY PREVIOUSLY DEVOTED TO THE FUNDING OF UNDP EXPERTS IN AFRICA BE SIMPLY GIVEN TO HOST GOVERNMENTS TO SPEND AS THEY SEE FIT).

6. ANOTHER POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IS VOLTAN UNHAPPINESS WITH MANNER OF BAUMER' S ASSIGNMENT AS ACTING RESREP FOLLOWING RESIGNATION OF RESREP DAVID GANAO TO TAKE OVER CONGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER POSITION. VOLTAN GOVERNMENT ANNOYED BY FACT THAT UNDP HAD NOT CONSULTED GOUV WHEN NAMING BAUMER AS NUMBER TWO AND SIMILARLY DID NOT CONSULT PRIOR TO MAKING HIM ACTING RESREP FOLLOWING GANAO' S DEPARTURE.

7. FINALLY, WE UNDERSTAND THERE HAS BEEN SOME UNHAPPINESS ON PART OF GOUV WITH BAUMER' S STYLE. HE HAS NOT HESITATED TO PRESS GOUV WITH UNDP ANALYSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS MAKING EXCELLENT SENSE FROM POINT OF VIEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUT CONTAINING POLITICALLY UNPALATABLE IMPLICATIONS FOR CERTAIN MINISTERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

ADP000
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 00664 02 OF 02 160757 Z

12
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 EB-11 AID-20 AGR-20 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /175 W
----- 077873

R 131215 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6300
USUN NEW YORK 289
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OUAGADOUGOU 664

8. IN SUM, BAUMER BECOMES A SCAPEGOAT FOR VOLTAN SENSITIVITIES, INCOMPETENCE AND WEAKNESS. HE HAS IMPRESSED US GREATLY WITH HIS TALENT AND HIS DEDICATION. ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT BLESSED WITH THE SAME DIPLOMATIC SKILLS OF HIS RESREP PREDECESSOR GANAO, HE HAS HANDLED A COMPLICATED UNDP PROGRAM WITH DISTINCTION, BOTH FROM ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE POINTS OF VIEW. THERE IS ALREADY EVIDENCE THAT SOME OF THE BEST UNDP TECHNICIANS HERE ARE VIEWING HIS REMOVAL WITH DISMAY AND ARE LIKELY TO ARTICULATE THEIR UNHAPPINESS TO VOLTAN AND OTHER COUNTERPARTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PETERSON AND DOO KINGUE HAVE SENT TELEGRAMS OF PROTEST TO PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. WE DO NOT INTEND TO REMAIN SILENT OURSELVES IF APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO RAISE THE ISSUE IS PRESENTED.

9. ACTION REQUESTED OF USUN MISSION: WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION YOU CAN OBTAIN CONCERNING CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING BAUMER' S REMOVAL. SUGGEST BOB KITCHEN WOULD BE USEFUL SOURCE IN VIEW HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH ACBA DIALLO MEMBERS OF VOLTAN UN DELEGATION WHO DISPLAYED SUCH BITTERNESS AND IN MISINFORMATION IN JANUARY OVER BAUMER' S ASSIGNMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OUAGAD 00664 02 OF 02 160757 Z

TO UPPER VOLTA (SEE USUN 174 AND OUAGADOUGA' S 109).
DIALLO NOW IN OUAGADOUGOU AND WE MAY HAVE OCCASION
EXPLORE ISSUE WITH HIM INFORMALLY.
EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OUAGAD00664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS EASUM
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730442/aaaaiobp.tel
Line Count: 210
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980115; jms 980115
Subject: EXPULSION OF ACTING UNDP RESREP
TAGS: AORG, UV, UNDP
To: STATE
USUN NEW YORK INFO KINSHASA
PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005